

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 are currently pending. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added. This Response is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination.

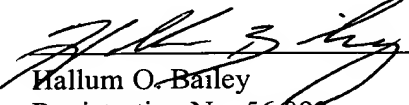
Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the Koda patent (Japanese Patent No. 3-150454) in view of the Matsuura reference (65662/1992). Although Applicants do not concur, the claims have been amended solely in the interest of advancing prosecution. This amendment, which is believed to render the rejection moot, is made without prejudice to prosecution of the original claims in a continuing patent application.

Applicants note that combination of the Koda and Matsuura references clearly would not have produced the claimed inventions. For example, neither reference discloses or suggests increasing a sensor operating temperature to a first temperature of 500 – 800 °C.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 patentably defines over the disclosures of the Koda and Matsuura references and is in condition for allowance. Since claim 3 ultimately depends from claim 1, Applicants further submit that this claim is also in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, an indication of allowability and a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (215) 557-5996 if there are any questions concerning Applicants' claimed inventions.

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